



STARS ASK FANCY PRICES.

The players at present hold the key to the baseball situation, and they are improving its possession by keeping some of the magnates guessing. While a large number of National and American league players signed contracts for next year before the close of the playing season, some of the stars (and some who are not) are still fancy free, and the chief interest these days is in watching the efforts of the rival leagues to land them.

But the players realize their opportunity. There are not enough tried players to go around with two big leagues in the market after talent, and the consequence is many players are placing exorbitant values upon their services. Even second-raters are demanding big money for playing next year, arguing that they can play one league against the other.

The argument is all right from the players' standpoint, and no one blames them for reaping as large a harvest as possible from the existing situation. But the wise man will remember that there is a limit even to a magnate's bank roll, and if salaries are crowded so high that either league is forced to the wall or to make a compromise there will be short work made of clipping salaries. It is for the players' interests to maintain the present situation as long as possible, but baseball players as a rule look only to their immediate interests, without regard to what happens to others in the same profession.

SEVEN STARS FOR NEW LEAGUE.

Seven members of the Philadelphia National league club have signed two-year contracts to play with the American league, and two more are dickering with the latter organization, says a Philadelphia paper.

The players all denied having signed during the season, but most of them received substantial advance money, and then affixed their signatures to contracts at the close of the National league season. Four of the seven will be seen at Washington, and the other three with the Athletics. Left Fielder Deleahanty, Third Baseman Wolverton and Pitchers Orth and Townsend will be with the Senators, and Shortstop Monte Cross, Right Fielder Flick and Pitcher Dugleby with the Athletics.

Deleahanty gets the most money, his figures being \$4,000, with \$1,000 advance money; Flick, Cross, Wolverton and Orth get \$3,000 apiece, and have each received \$500 advance money while Townsend and Dugleby are to get \$2,400 each.

SAM LEEVER'S CLEVER WORK.

The baseball season of 1901, which brought the highest honor in the baseball world to Pittsburgh, has been a good season, although in some respects it was not first-class. From a ball players' standpoint it has been the best season there ever was, for the average of wages is much higher than heretofore. There have been times when some few stars got more than most of the top-notchers are receiving now, but under present conditions the pay of nearly every man on almost all of the sixteen big clubs in the country is high.

Although no figures have been given out, it is estimated that the Pittsburgh club will clear between \$40,000 and \$50,000 this season. New York, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Brooklyn and



PITCHER SAM LEEVER.

probably Cincinnati will also make money, but Boston and Chicago will come out behind. In the American League Milwaukee, Cleveland and Baltimore surely lost money, while it is a question if several of the others did not also drop a few dollars.

The best winning pitcher of the Pittsburgh league team this season was Samuel Leever, who won 15 out of the 19 games in which he participated, leading the big organization in the percentage of games won with .789. Sam was born in 1872, at Goshen, O.,

and from early youth he took an active interest in baseball. He branched out as an amateur player and made his professional debut at Clarksville, Tenn., in 1894. He played with the Maysville (Ky.) club the two succeeding seasons. He was signed by the Richmond club of the Atlantic League in 1897. At the close of the year he was purchased by the Pittsburgh club, but was farmed out to Richmond the next season, when he made the best record of any pitcher in that association. Pittsburgh took him back in 1899 and he has since done good work for the Pirates. Leever is a man of intelligence and is a school teacher by profession.

OLD TIMER'S RETURN.

The engagement of Tom Daly to play second base for the Chicago



TOM DALY.

American league team will recall to the minds of Chicago fans the time when Daly played with Anson's nine in the National league. Daly was a catcher then and, despite his diminutive stature, was a valuable man—so valuable that Anson never ceased to grieve over losing him at the time of the brotherhood uprising. Daly was with the Chicago team at the time the latter made the trip around the world.

WAR OF THE LEAGUES.

The American league's policy of wrecking a team where there is to be direct rivalry is being worked to the limit in St. Louis, where all conditions favor the invaders. The Cardinals were dissatisfied with the management last season, and the owners of the club are not in a position to follow salaries skyward to any great extent if their patronage is to be divided. By picking off the stars in St. Louis, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, or compelling the National Leaguers to dig deep into their trousers in order to retain their players, the young league is following a determined policy which spells ruin to one league or the other before long.

St. Louis sources persist in sending out the information that Outfielder Heldrick is one of the cardinal stars who will be wearing an American league uniform next year. Heldrick is on the American league's blacklist along with seven other contract jumpers, and as he was one of the worst offenders on the list there is small chance of his being signed to an American league contract again. Owner Comiskey of the White Stockings, whom Heldrick double crossed last winter, has repeatedly said he would close the gates of his park before he would permit Heldrick to play there on any team, and Comiskey has a way of keeping his promises.

DIAMOND GLINTS.

According to President Hickey, the Western league will invade Milwaukee. "If the American league drops the town we will enter that city, as well as Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville," said Mr. Hickey. "We have had several applications for a Chicago franchise, but the whole matter is undecided."

The Athletics have tried the most players this season—26—and Washington the fewest—16. Cleveland given opportunities to 23 men, Boston to 21, Boston to 20, Detroit to 19, Milwaukee to 19 and Chicago to 17, which makes a total for the eight clubs of 161 players, or a fraction over 20 each team.

Herman Long may be found with the American league next season. The Boston team has been working hard to get the clever shortstop to attach his signature to a Boston contract, but Herman does not like the terms his team offers. "I am out for the money," says Herman, "and the fellow with the longest purse will get my name to a contract."

Jimmy Collins owes his admirable success as a manager largely to the fact that he has an admirable temper, and knows how to keep it. He is a good loser, welcomes criticism, and never chafes when matters do not go his way. Those who have come in contact with him for the first time have been charmed with his pleasant ways and gentlemanly conduct.

It is said that the cheapest railway fares in the world are to be found in Hungary.

RELICS OF ANCIENT BABYLON

A cable message from Berlin to the New York Sun reports a discovery of interest to Bible students as well as antiquarians. It reports that Dr. Koldewey and his party, who are excavating on the site of ancient Babylon, have uncovered walls which they believe to have been part of the palace of Nebuchadnezzar. One of the walls is faced with glazed tiles, which seem to have wonderfully withstood the ravages of time, and are artistically ornamented with flowers and tracery. In the courtyard near the wall were also found several bricks, evidently part of a mosaic pavement, the design of which was composed of enameled and glass-raised work. Among their other finds in the courtyard were coins, stone utensils, and fragments of stone inscriptions. Dr. Koldewey considers the recent finds as fully proving that this part of the city contained the finest of the Babylonian palaces, doubtless that of Nebuchadnezzar. Meanwhile, excavations are being carried on in the business quarter of old Babylon, where the Arabs found the entire business documents of the Babylonian firm "Ezbi & Son"—possibly the oldest house of business of which the world holds record. These documents included unpaid bills, day-books, ledgers, etc. They were made of hardened clay, and the wonder is that they had not crumbled away during the course of the centuries. This

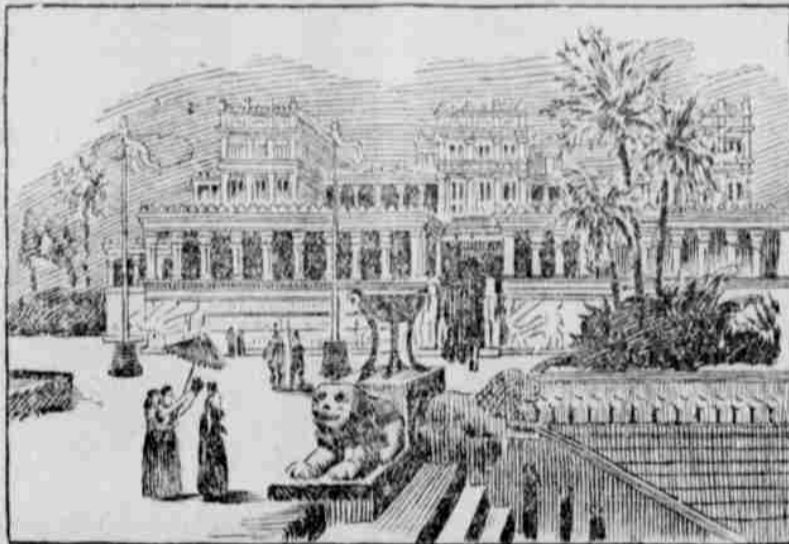
raised by whites. From 1881 to 1895 there was no increase in the holdings of land by the blacks in Virginia, and the same is probably true for other southern states.

CANDLES NOT OBSOLETE.

There Are Still Many Uses for the Flickering Light.

"Candles going out!" said a candle manufacturer. "Oh, no. There are more candles sold in the United States now than ten years ago, and I don't doubt that the same thing would be found to be true as to the world at large. The world over, candles are used by miners in gold, silver and copper mines. Candles are burned in churches, and they constitute a part of the undertaker's supplies. Candles are burned on ships. Butchers use them in their ice boxes. Brewers find use for them, as plumbers do, also. They are used in coach lamps, and for table ornamentation. Candles for Christmas trees are sold yearly to the number of many millions. Candles are still used, too, for the ordinary purposes of domestic lighting."

"I various foreign countries, despite the world-wide introduction of petroleum and electricity, you will find candles in wider use for ordinary lighting purposes than here. You would find in some countries candles used in hotels, and you would find



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PALACE.

(From a restoration suggested by the Ground Plan and Excavations.)

discovery shows how literally the prophecies against Babylon have been fulfilled.—Christian Herald.

DISTRIBUTION OF NEGROES.

In Some Southern States They Are Becoming Very Numerous.

The result of the last census shows that, taking the whole country together, the colored population is not increasing at a rate greater than the white, and that the fears formerly expressed in this regard were quite groundless. In some states, however, the colored people are becoming disproportionately numerous—in South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia and Arkansas, for example.

The census brings out two main tendencies. The first is the gradual concentration of the blacks in certain regions and the second is their concentration in cities. City life is very hazardous for the negro race, as the colored people live in unsanitary dwellings and under poor conditions.

In Chicago, for example, more than 14,000 negroes are huddled together, and here, as in many other cities of the North, the negroes constitute an undue proportion of the criminal class. The fertility of the blacks is greater than that of the whites, but their mortality is much greater also, so that their increase is considerably less. Taking ten of the largest cities of the South it appears that the mortality of the blacks is 32 per 1,000, and of the whites only 20, and there are indications that the former mortality is increasing, not diminishing.

Five counties in Virginia now inhabited by 69,000 blacks and 52,000 whites produce today 12,000,000 pounds of tobacco, instead of 32,000,000, their former yield. Four counties of Kentucky, inhabited by 81,000 whites and 5,500 blacks, have, on the other hand, increased the yield from 90,000 to 10,000,000 pounds in the same period. In the whole of Virginia, where the blacks constitute 38 per cent of the population, the tobacco crop has fallen from 121,000,000 to 48,000,000 pounds in the last thirty years; in Kentucky, where the blacks constitute 14 per cent it has risen from 108,000,000 to 221,000,000. Rice culture in South Carolina and Georgia is subject to similar losses owing to the uncertainty of negro labor. The cotton culture is passing into the hands of the whites, before the civil war this crop was entirely raised by black labor, while at present 40 per cent is

SPIDER AS WEATHER PROPHET.

Vacatan Insect That Foretells Changes in Meteorological Conditions.

Most birds and animals have the faculty of discerning the approach of a storm with more or less accuracy, but in Vacatan they have a spider that is known as a weather forecaster. This insect is known as "am," on account of the effect produced by its poison. As far as its own product goes the insect is inoffensive and can be handled with impunity, but if anybody has the misfortune to get one mysteriously mixed with his food he is certain to die after a few hours and meanwhile, for some unexplained reason, will frequently ejaculate "Am! Am! Am!"—hence the name of the spider. Throughout the peninsula this is affirmed to be a fact, and if an "am" falls into fodder of horses or mules the animal that swallows it surely dies.

This spider is shaped like a crab, minus the claws, and is of a bright yellow color, with brown spots; the biggest could be accommodated upon a silver dime. Its favorite abode is among the leaves of the banana shrub—commonly, but erroneously, called tree. There it spins, with extreme rapidity, its web, which is prodigiously large, considering the size of the architect, and proceeds to devour flies that are unlucky enough to get entangled in the meshes of this astonishing little glutton, that is not satisfied with less than a dozen a day; that is to say, it consumes a good deal more than its own bulk. Its progeny are numerous, and appear, at first, like mere black specks, smaller than the smallest pin's head.

The sky may be blue and cloudless, when suddenly the am commences taking in its sails, or, rather, gathering in its nets, with neatness and dispatch, cramming the whole of the material into its diminutive body entirely out of sight. A few minutes completes the job and the spider takes up its position on the under surface of one of the great leaves, to be lulled by the gentle swaying and sheltered while the storm rages. It is for this that the am has prepared, and never is mistaken; when the web is taken in rain will surely fall within an hour.

The moment the am is touched it feigns death and lets itself drop, showing no sign of life until again placed upon a leaf or on the ground. Many a one has lain on the palm of the writer's hand, inert, all its legs drawn close to its body, while it was examined at leisure, even being picked up in the fingers without its manifesting any life.

TO CHANCE A QUARTER

It Requires Seventy Cents and Thirty Two Coins.

"How much does it take to change a quarter?" asked the bartender. "Twenty-five cents, eh? Not on your life. It takes seventy cents to do the trick. How many ways do you suppose a quarter dollar can be changed? Just exactly eleven. A fellow of limited means may like the jingle of coin in his clothes. In that event you can give him twenty-five pennies, or twenty pennies and one nickel, supposing he wants to get a beer. He may like to have a little sprinkling of silver in his clothes, and you can accommodate him with fifteen pennies and a dime, or ten pennies, a dime and a nickel. If he prefers to have change handy for a beer and a car fare, why fifteen pennies and two nickels will fix him up; and, if he wants a cigar in addition, besides having a little stock of cash in his jeans, give him ten pennies and three nickels. That makes six ways. Now, then, a fellow with a quarter can trade it off for five pennies and four nickels, two dimes and one nickel, and dime and three nickels, or five nickels, just as he prefers. And to accommodate him in any way he might select, you have to possess twenty-five pennies, two dimes and five nickels—70 cents in all."—Philadelphia Record.

A Queen's Many Sorrows.

The queen of the Belgians, who recently celebrated her 65th birthday, comes of the ill-fated house of Hapsburg, and her cup of grief has been more than full. Her hair is said to have been white while she was still in her thirties. The queen's only son, the duke of Brabant, died suddenly under circumstances which suggested poisoning. Her son-in-law was the Crown Prince Rudolph, who ended his life in a most tragic manner. Her favorite nephew was killed in an accident and her sister is in a lunatic asylum not far from the palace of Brussels.

Bees Make Their Home in a Statue.

The heroic equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee, in Richmond, Va., is believed to have hundreds of pounds of honey concealed inside of it. For months bees have been going in and out of the parted lips of both the human and animal figure. The insects were first seen there last summer, and doubtless have been making honey ever since. There is no way to get inside either figure without doing irreparable damage, but fear is entertained that vandal hands may make the attempt.

Doubtful.

An eastern editor thinks that Rudyard Kipling is canny in not endeavoring to explain his latest rhymes. Yes; but can he?—Cleveland Fish Dealer.

There are three telephone circuits between New York and London.